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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

8 January 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Allan Evans, State (OIRA)  
Colonel E. T. Seaburn, USA (ACSI)  
Captain W. S. Howell, USN (ONI)  
Colonel R. S. Hibbert, USAF (AFCIN 2B2)  
Colonel J. M. Pittman, USA (JIG)  
Chairman, SEC  
Chairman, JAEIC

SUBJECT : Terms of Reference: SNIE 11-58: PROBABLE  
SOVIET LONG RANGE BOMBER DEVELOPMENT, 1958-1962

1. The attached terms of reference have been approved by the Board of National Estimates pursuant to a meeting with the IAC representatives held today. The following schedule has been approved:

Terms of reference approved: 8 January

Contributions due to O/NE: 20 January

Draft to representatives: 27 January

Representatives meetings begin: 3 February

IAC target date: 11 February

*William P. Bundy*  
WILLIAM P. BUNDY  
Deputy Assistant Director  
National Estimates  
*d*

Distribution "B"  
plus SEC and JAEIC

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SUBJECT: TERMS OF REFERENCE: SNIE 11-58: PROBABLE SOVIET LONG  
RANGE BOMBER DEVELOPMENT, 1958 - 1962\*

THE PROBLEM

To estimate what new long range bomber types the USSR is likely to develop for operational use over the next five years.

SCOPE

This estimate is intended to supplement the statements on the development of new bombers appearing in the Long Range Aviation section of NIE 11-4-57. It should be prepared within the context of the overall discussion of Soviet military thinking, requirements, and probable development of other long range weapons systems in NIEs 11-4-57, 11-5-57, and 11-10-57. While it is not necessary to discuss in detail related and possibly competing weapons systems, these factors should be taken into account.

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\* The title of this estimate, when used separately from the text, should be classified: CONFIDENTIAL.

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QUESTIONS BEARING ON THE PROBLEM

A. Probable Direction of Research and Development

1. What specific intelligence do we have on research and development work now underway in the USSR, which would indicate the improvement of present long range bombers and the development of new types?
2. Summarize general Soviet capabilities in aerodynamics and propulsion including nuclear propulsion for development of new long range bomber systems during 1958 - 1962.
3. What performance characteristics are the Soviets most likely to emphasize in their long range bomber development program during this period? Consider both available intelligence and estimated Soviet requirements. The latter should include payload capacities compatible with estimated Soviet developments in the fields of nuclear weapons technology and aircraft fuels.
4. Consider estimated Soviet capabilities in air-to-surface missiles as they bear on further long range bomber development.
5. What capabilities for missions other than attack will the Soviets seek to achieve in their development program? Consider,

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for example, photographic and electronic reconnaissance, ECM, and convertible tanker-bombers.

B. Probable Soviet Long Range Bomber Development Timetable

1. At what priority is the development program likely to be pressed forward during the period? Consider the urgency of the Soviet need for new long range bomber types in relation to the improvement of existing long range bombers and to other weapons capable of long range delivery (e.g., submarine-launched missiles, IRBM, ICBM).

2. What specific new Soviet long range bomber systems are likely to be under development during the period? Estimate their performance characteristics and the probable time-schedule of their development, including estimated date of first flyable prototype, whether or not within the period.

3. Are these aircraft likely to be placed in series production and introduced into operational units? If so, at approximately what dates?